

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY MANILA

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

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E. O. 11652 N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: MAY 29 INDOCHINA PRESS SUMMARY

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1. REUTER PP REPORTS THAT FOR FIRST TIME LON NOL, IN TALKS WITH AMB. SULLIVAN, AGREED NEGOTIATE DIRECTLY WITH SIHANOUK. PP SOURCES SAY LE DUC THO HAD INSISTED ON OBTAINING GKR AGREEMENT AND IN RETURN ADMITTED FOR FIRST TIME TO HAK THAT DRV HAS TROOPS IN CAMBODIA. LON NOL' S AGREEMENT COULD OPEN WAY FOR C- F BY DRV, US AND KHMER FACTIONS. PP OBSERVERS BELIEVE GKR UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE TO NEGOTIATE NOW AND TAKE WHATEVER TERMS IT CAN GET (CHITRIB). SUN REPORTS SIHANOUK REPS IN PARIS DISTRIBUTED STATEMENT THAT PRINCE WOULD NEVER DEAL WITH LON NOL GOVERNMENT. STATEMENT ISSUED BY CHAU SENG IN SIHANOUK' S NAME ALSO DENOUNCES SON SANN AS US " PAWN." US WASHINGTON OFFICIAL DECLINES COMMENT ON REPORTED DEVELOPMENTS, BUT SAYS US HAS ALWAYS WANTED KHMER PARTIES GET TOGETHER (SUN). NYT' S GWERTZMAN REPORTS SULLIVAN UNAVAILABLE IN WASHINGTON FOR COMMENT, BUT ANOTHER US OFFICIAL, ACCORDING GWERTZMAN, SAID US HAS BEEN PRESSING LON NOL TO BROADEN GOVERNMENT AND OFFER NEGOTIATE WITH SIHANOUK. GWERTZMAN ALSO REPORTS SENATE- HOUSE CONFEREES ON BOMBING FUND CKTODF MAY POSTPONE ANY HALT IN BOMBING UNTIL AFTER COMPLETION OF FORTHCOMING HAK- THO TALKS BEGINNING JUNE 7.

2. USAF PLANES PROVIDE INTENSIVE COVER FOR CONVOY OF SIX OIL TANKERS FOR PP. AP REPORTS TWO TANKERS AND TWO CARGO SHIPS HEAVILY DAMAGED IN RUN INTO PP. 133 TRUCKS CARRYING RICE AND FISH ARRIVE IN PP FROM KOMPONG SOM (NYT, NYDN). POST' S ELIZABETH BECKER REPORTS FROM PP THAT CREW MEMBERS OF CONVOY DESCRIBE AIR COVER " MOST POWERFUL" EVER. MANAGER OF ONE TRANSPORT COMPANY SAYS US AIR OPS HAVEN' T DIMINISHED. BECKER REPORTS THAT, DESPITE URGENT FUEL NEEDS OF FANK, GASOLINE GETS INTO TANKS OF LUXURY CARS IN PP (WP).

3. UPI SAIGON REPORTS POLGARIANS GIVE WAY AND AGREE TO ICCS AGENDA LISTING THREE ITEMS CONCERNING REPORTS ON INTERROGATIONS OF FOUR NVA POWS. FOLLOWING CONCESSION, POLGARIANS QUESTION PROPRIETY OF FORWARDING ONE OF REPORTS TO TPJMC SINCE IT WAS WORK OF ONLY UNCLASSIFIED

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CANADONESIANS. LATTER HAD THREATENED WALKOUT IF THREE ITEMS TAKEN OFF AGENDA (NYT). GAUVIN SAYS, " QUESTION NOW IS WHETHER THE COMMISSION CAN BE RENDERED COMPLETELY IMPOTENT BY THE INSISTENCE ON UNANIMITY. NO COUNTRY CAN CLAIM THE RIGHT TO VETO THE FORWARDING OF REPORTS" (PHINQ).

4. EUGENE ROSTOW (NYT) DECLARES HOUSE ACTION CUTTING OFF FUNDS FOR CAMBODIA BOMBING IS CONSTITUTIONALLY IRRESPONSIBLE AND COMES AT PARTICULARLY INAPPROPRATE MOMENT. NOT TRUE THAT CONGRESS NEVER CONSENTED TO MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN LAOS AND CAMBODIA. AFTER SEATO RATIFIED, EISENHOWER, KENNEDY, JOHNSON AND NIXON, WITH FULL AND REPEATED BIPARTISAN SUPPORT FROM CONGRESS, DECIDED TO PROTECT SVN AGAINST ARMED ATTACK FROM NVN. UNLESS CONGRESS AND PRESIDENT ABROGATE SEATO, THAT POLICY CONTINUES FOUNDATION FOR NATION'S COURSE IN AREA. MANIFESTLY IMPOSSIBLE TO ASSURE SECURITY OF SVN IF HOSTILE FORCES OPERATE AGAINST IT FROM SANCTUARIES IN CAMBODIA AND LAOS. THIS WAS PREMISE OF 1962 GENEVA AGREEMENT THROUGH WHICH USSR PROMISED THAT NVN TROOPS WOULD WITHDRAW FROM CAMBODIA AND LAOS. PROMISE WAS REPEATED BY NVN IN JANUARY C- F AGREEMENT AND ENDORSED BY MAJOR POWERS SIGNING MARCH 2 ACT OF PARIS. DOCTRINES OF INTERNATIONAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LAW ALSO JUSTIFY PRESIDENT'S POLICY IN LAOS AND CAMBODIA. PARIS AGREEMENTS OF JANUARY AND MARCH 1973 DO NOT ALTER US UNDERLYING POSITION IN INDOCHINA, AS MATTER EITHER OF CONSTITUTIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL LAW. THEY DO, HOWEVER, PROVIDE NEW AND IMPORTANT BASIS FOR

OUR CONTINUED ACTION.

5. MIT BIOLOGY PROFESSOR LURIA WRITES TO WP EDITOR SAYING HOUSE VOTE REFUSING FUNDS FOR CAMBODIA BOMBING, ADMIN THREAT TO VIOLATE SUCH DIRECTIVE EVEN IF CONFIRMED BY SENATE, AND AMBASSADOR GODLEY'S ADMISSION THAT WE HAVE BEEN PAYING FOR THAI MERCENARIES IN LAOS, OUTLINE PATTERN IN WHICH CONGRESS AND AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE BEING CHALLENGED AND BELITTLED

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AS PART OF LONG- RANGE PLAN TO SUBVERT CONSTITUTION. CHURCH- COOPER AMENDMENT FORBIDS ADMIN TO PAY FOR ANY NON- LAO TROOPS IN LAOS. CONTINUED BOMBING IN FACE OF CONGRESSIONAL OPPOSITION WILL BE USURPATION OF POWER.

6. REFERRING TO ATTACKS ON VC AND NVA SUPPLY DUMPS AND BASE CAMPS IN CAMBODIA, FIRST REPORTED BY NYT'S BEECHER ON MAY 9, 1969, AS CLANDESTINE WAR, CSM SAYS CONSTITUTION DOES NOT ENTRUST WARMAKING POWER TO ONE MAN; TO DO IT CLANDESTINELY IS CERTAINLY TO VIOLATE CONSTITUTION'S INTENT. CONGRESS SHOULD AGAIN REASSERT ITS CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS. ROGERS

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